AMENDMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS.

THE Architectural Association being anxious to carry into effect that which was proposed in their report upon architectural competition, while London is full, have called a public meeting, by advertisement in our columns, upon this important subject. To this we would strongly call attention. The movement has been approved by many members of the Institute, who feel that something ought to be done *now*, so the profession will, as it were, set their seal to the present system. The younger part of the profession look for some *disinterested* support from the elder members of it to whom competition is not so necessary, and will, we trust, find it.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Berlin.—The inauguration of the great equestrian statue of Frederic of Prussia will be commemorated by a medal, executed by order of the King. The Academy of Arts will celebrate this event by the execution of a bust of the sculptor Rauch, the postament of which will be adorned by a relievo from a design of Cornelius. It represents Minerva's birth from the skull of Jove, whereat Hephæstos lends his aid. This monument to the great Prussian sculptor will be placed in the meeting-room of the senate of the Academy of Arts.——The Kroll establishment, lately destroyed by fire, is already rebuilding, and the plan promises a more splendid establishment than the former. The theatre is to be placed in the saloon towards the garden. Around the whole a colonnade of wood (!) is being constructed, for protecting the public against any sudden change of weather.

France.—Another Legacy for the public good.—M. Hème, a merchant, of the little town of Mer (Loire-et-Cher), lately deceased, has left his whole landed property for building, at his native place, a hospital, endowed with an annual income of 20,000 francs; an annual rent of 1,500 francs to be employed by the municipal council of Mer, and another similar annual sum by the commune of Herbilly.

Art-Stir at Berlin.—As soon as the statue of Frederick the Great has been inaugurated, a great *act*, as it were, of Berlin art-tendency will have been accomplished. Then, four of the groups on the Schlossbrücke will be put up, of which one has been sculptured by Wolff at Rome, the other three are in the hands of Messrs. Wickmann, Drake, and Möller. The staircase of the great theatre will soon be ornamented by the two genii of Professor Tieck, riding on a panther and a lion. Four groups modelled by Professor Fischer will be placed around the Column of Victory on the Place of Alliance. Rauch is engaged with the statues of Generals York and Gneisenau, which will be placed at the sides of the Blücher monument.

Prague Art-Union.—On Easter Monday the annual exhibition of the "Society of Patriotic Art Friends" was opened to the public. The reports are unfavourable, and speak of an utter deficiency of plastic works, and a very scanty display of works from home artists. From Munich, however, some good pictures have been sent, like those of Peter Hess, Heinlein, Morgenstern, and a great many more. The Academy of Düsseldorf was also duly represented by Mevius and Schirmer; and Hübner sent his famous "Silesian Weavers," a sort of Communist work of art. From Vienna, Rahl's huge canvass, "Reception of King Manfred in Lucrecia," attracted notice.

The new Picture Gallery of Dresden.—Who does not know the old, nearly corroded two-flighted stone staircase of the so-called *Stallgebaude* (stable-house) at Dresden—the aged abode of so many art-jewels and treasures? But already rise high up the walls of the *new Museum*, which will be contiguous to the *Zwinger*, combining the whole into one huge square. In two years more the transfer of pictures will have been accomplished, a thing rather urgent, as last summer one of the (double) ceilings of the old gallery fell in, and caused the closing of the establishment for a week. It is contemplated to apportion an especial space to the Madonna del Sisto di Raffaello, probably the first picture in the world. It is said, that a German artist has proposed to Queen Victoria to make a copy of the Sixtine Heavens-Queen, for London, to be placed also in an especial building, richly decorated. But the execution may meet with some difficulty, as the original picture is promised for eight years to come to different copying artists, according to a certain turn.

Reggio.—The theatre of this city is burnt to cinders, and nothing but the walls left. It had been built in 1740 and 1741, by the architect Antonio Cusini, after the plan of those of Verona and Modena, as it is said, in the short time of 180 days. It contained 160 loggie (boxes), and would accommodate upwards of 1,000 persons.

The first Annual Exhibition of Fine Arts at Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, 1851.—It must be gratifying to the founders of the Art-Union in England to perceive, how the humanizing results of art are spreading hence over the whole world. According to an article in the *African Journal* (20th February last), this first gathering of African art comprises 509 articles of paintings, models, casts, and medals. The names of the prominent artists are, Messrs. Bell, Bowles, Christian, Chiappini, M'Dougall, Newman, Steedman, and "a lady." Our contemporary also duly acknowledges the judgment and discrimination of the gentlemen forming the committee, who have arranged the subjects placed under their care with much skill and effect in a building of the governor's garden. In the same number of the *African Journal* is also a leading article, inscribed "A Word or two for the Fine Arts," whence we gather, that the latest marks on art and architecture published here, are known and appreciated at even this distant point of South-Africa.

Art Exhibition of all Nations, Brussels.—The plans for the building about to be erected in the yard of the *Musée d'Industrie* for the purpose of placing therein the works of art of the forthcoming great exhibition, have been laid before the Minister of the Interior. The buildings will form a parallelogram in the shape of the *Palais d'Industrie*, with a front on the Place du Musée. To the four principal galleries which occupy the four sides of the parallelogram, two transversal galleries will be added: the latter will be divided in compartments, especially devoted for pictures of small dimensions. The galleries will be built of wood and lighted from the roof. The transversal galleries will have a lower roof. The six galleries forming the Exhibition will extend to 4,000 metres, which is supposed to be adequate to the greatest amount of art-works likely to be forwarded. These temporary buildings will communicate with the *Palais d'Industrie*, to enable the public to inspect, at the same time, and without leaving the building, the Museums of Industry, ancient pictures, natural history, and the national library. It is stated that Messrs. Delacroix, Diaz, Couture and other French artists will send works to this world-gathering of art in the Belgian capital.

BREACH OF CONTRACT BY A BUILDER.

HICKS AND OTHERS *v.* BOREHAM AND SON.

THIS was an action brought at Clerkenwell County Court, on Monday, May 5, before Mr. Moody, by the plaintiffs, who are the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Hurst, in the counties of Berks and Wilts, against the defendants, who are builders and contractors, of 26, Wilmot-street, Brunswick-square. The plaintiffs sought to recover the sum of 12*l.* for money paid to Messrs. Humphreys and Thirsk, builders and the contractors for the metropolitan sewers, for relaying a drain to the common sewer, which had previously been contracted for by the defendants, and which it was alleged was done in an unworkmanlike manner.

Mr. Spencer, for the plaintiffs, said that his clients were trustees of a charity called "Hicks's Trust." That belonging to this trust were two houses in Grove-street, St. Giles's, Nos. 21 and 22. That in the year 1849, the authorities of the parish of St. Giles, having had it represented to them that the houses in question were not in good condition, and required draining, called upon the trustees of the charity to carry out the provisions of the Sanitary Law. He, Mr. Spencer, as solicitor to the trust, entered into a contract with the defendants to make the alterations in the drains at the rate of 3*s.* 6*d.* per foot, for which the defendants agreed to make a complete job of the drainage to the common sewer. It was at first contemplated to carry the sewer into George-street, but it being ascertained that the Commissioners of Sewers would have demanded 20*l.* for license so to do, the idea was abandoned. It was then settled to carry the drain to the next house, which communicated with the common sewer. When the work was done, he paid the defendants 32*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* Shortly after, it was found to be so badly done that the tenant of the house No. 21, who was a baker, was flooded out of his bakehouse by the soil from the drains. Upon this being discovered the defendants came and made some experiments. They said the difficulty arose at the entrance of the sewer, which being out of their province, not being their work, they could not rectify. Upon this the Commissioners of Sewers were applied to, the surveyors of whom pronounced it defective and bad work, and at once set their contractors to relay the drains.

Witnesses having corroborated the above, Mr. Spencer called Mr. George Frederick Fry, surveyor and clerk of the works to the Commissioners of Sewers, who stated that the cause of stoppage was the fixing a 9-inch drain-pipe to a 6-inch drain-pipe, and from the bad levels of the drains as well as their tortuous direction. The drains were so badly constructed, that he at once ordered their contractor to take them up. Had there been a great supply of water it would not have prevented the stoppage. Could not tell who laid the 6 inch pipes down, but they were a very common pipe, and decayed: the 9-inch pipes were very good.

An attorney, who appeared for the defendants, said his clients could not be answerable for other people's work. That he should prove these 6-inch pipes were not laid down by the defendants, and, furthermore, that the work was done in a workmanlike manner.

Mr. Childerhouse, foreman to the defendants, deposed to having superintended the job, and that he had not the least notion of the diameter of the pipe he affixed his 9-inch pipe to. Had there been a greater supply of water, no stoppage would have ensued. Had had much practice in laying down pipes and drains, and had no hesitation in swearing that the drains in question were done in a workmanlike manner. The 6-inch pipes were not laid down by them.

Mr. Humphreys was then called to prove the reasonableness of his charge, and gave it as his opinion that the work was not done in a workmanlike manner. That since he had relaid it, there was no complaint, although less water was used than previous to his reconstructing the drains.

His Honour said it was clear that the defendants were not liable for faulty work done by other persons. It was proved that the stoppage arose from the 6-inch pipe, and that the defendants did not lay that down. With respect to the expense incurred in relaying, that he thought the defendants should be absolved. With regard to that portion of the drain which the defendants made, it was his opinion from the practical evidence of Mr. Fry and Mr. Humphreys, that it was so badly executed as to make it indispensable to reconstruct it. As no damage had been proved to have been done, he thought a verdict for 3*l.* would meet the merits of the case.

Verdict for 3*l.*, and costs of four witnesses.

The case excited much interest amongst the building profession, the Court being crowded with members of various firms. It was rumoured that the baker whose bakehouse was flooded with the soil, intended to sue Messrs. Boreham for the damage done to his flour and business.

SUBSTITUTE FOR MARINE GLUE.—A transparent substance, well adapted to replace the marine glue of Jeffreys for many purposes, particularly where a transparent joint is required, as in the union of pieces of glass, has been invented by Mr. S. Lenher, of Philadelphia. The composition is as follows:—Caoutchouc 15 grains, chloroform 2 ounces, mastic half an ounce. The two first-named ingredients are to be first mixed: after the gum is dissolved the mastic is added, and the whole allowed to macerate for a week. More caoutchouc may be added where great elasticity is desirable. The convenience of its application with a brush, cold, recommends it for approval.—*Franklin Journal.*

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